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Message Text

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47
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 051210
P 191524Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7731

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13148

NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UR
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH THE SOVIETS ON BLOOD COUNT

REF: STATE 205848

1. I SEE NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH APPROACHING SOVIETS FOR BLOOD-COUNT DATA AS YOU SUGGEST. HOWEVER, I AM DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BE HELPFUL SINCE CONNECTION WITH MICROWAVE ISSUE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT (EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD NOT CITE IT), AND REQUEST COULD WELL BE DELAYED FOR HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION. IN ANY EVENT, I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT -- EVEN SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO COOPERATE -- SOVIETS HAVE BLOOD COUNT DATA AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL POPULATION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BLOOD COUNTS (PARTICULARLY DETAILED ONES SUCH AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING HERE) ARE NORMALLY CONDUCTED ONLY WHEN THERE IS AN INDICATION OF ILLNESS. FOR THESE REASONS, I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WILL PROVIDE US WITH USEFUL DATA.

2. BEFORE MAKING FIRM RECOMMENDATION, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH DR. JOHNSON, WHO IS NOW DUE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW AUGUST 23. IN MEANTIME, MED MIGHT WISH TO CONSULT WITH NIH SPECIALISTS ACTIVE IN OUR COOPERATIVE HEALTH AGREEMENTS WITH USSR REGARDING TYPES OF MEDICAL
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STATISTICS SOVIETS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SUPPLY. WE HAVE

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SOME JOINT PROGRAMS IN FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH,
INCLUDING SEVERAL ON COMPLEX BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS, AND IT
IS POSSIBLE THAT U.S. MEDICAL SPECIALISTS WORKING ON THESE
PROGRAMS HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET PRACTICES REGARDING
COLLECTION OF MEDICAL DATE OF THIS TYPE. SEEKING
INFORMATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE HEALTH AGREEMENT
MIGHT ALSO FURNISH A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE APPROACH.
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